

United States Government

Department of Energy

Memorandum

DATE: December 9, 2003

REPLY
TO
ATTN OF: EM-20 (Gene Schmitt, 202-586-5151)

SUBJECT: Risk Based End States Vision document

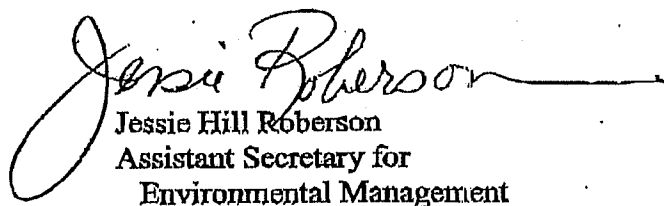
TO: Field Managers

In December 2002, the Department of Energy embarked on an effort to focus the Department's line management officials on conducting cleanup that is aimed at, and achieves, clearly defined, risk-based end states (RBES). This initiative builds on previous departmental efforts to develop land use plans, determine exposure scenarios, and calculate risk to workers, the public, and the environment. To date the Department has issued a formal policy, a draft implementation plan for that policy, and guidance to the field regarding the creation of site-specific end state visions. There has been extensive public participation in the development of these documents. This includes collaboration between the National Governors' Association Task Force and the establishment of a select RBES Committee of the Environmental Management Advisory Board. Information on our progress is available at www.em.doe.gov. I encourage you to go back and read for yourself what we have said and done.

Today, we are currently using a risk-based approach to define end states that are sustainably protective – an ongoing effort that has also sought and received considerable input from our regulators, affected governments, and stakeholders. On September 22, 2003, I directed the development of site-specific RBES visions. This is a major step forward in implementing the Department's policy. The guidance called for the sites to provide the draft RBES vision document to regulators and stakeholders for review and comment at the same time the draft documents were submitted to me. I have been asked by some of you to consider extending the due date. In order to assure meaningful participation by all affected parties, I am extending the following deadlines: the draft Vision will be due by February 1, 2004, and the final Vision document will be due March 30, 2004.

The RBES vision is intended to represent a set of site conditions and associated information that is protective of human health and the environment for the planned land use. The planned land use is not modified nor are there any shortcuts around any current law or regulation. The RBES vision is not a decision document. Once RBES visions are developed, we will evaluate our cleanup activities and strategic approaches to determine if it is appropriate to pursue changes in site baseline documents.

I believe the RBES approach provides a responsible way to assure that we know what is required for long-term protection. I am making this approach integral to the way the Office of Environmental Management does business and have placed responsibility for this effort under the newly formed Office of Environmental Cleanup and Acceleration. I hope this serves to clarify our purpose and intent. If you have any further questions regarding this effort, please contact Mr. Gene Schmitt at (202) 586-5151.



Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

Robert F. Warther, Manager, Ohio Field Office (OH)
Keith A. Klein, Manager, Richland Operations Office (RL)
Roy J. Schepens, Manager, Office of River Protection (ORP)
Frazer R. Lockhart, Manager, Rocky Flats Field Office (RF)
Jeffrey M. Allison, Manager, Savannah River Operations Office (SR)
Dr. Ines Triay, Manager, Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO)
William E. Murphie, Manager, Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office (PPPO)